AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

initiating, by an active device on behalf of a group of devices, a downloading

session to a group address associated with the group of devices, wherein

the group of devices includes the active device and a plurality of passive

devices, wherein initiating includes downloading a file to be transmitted as

a plurality of packets of data by the active device and a first set of the

plurality of passive devices;

checking, by a second set of the plurality of passive devices, for packet gaps once

the download of the file is completed, wherein the packet gap occurs if the

file size is known and a number of packets of the plurality of packets are

lost and a total size of the number of lost packets is less than a pre-selected

amount, wherein checking includes tracking a continuity of two or more

package gaps; and

promoting one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices to

being one or more smart devices if the packet gap is detected for the one

or more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices, wherein the

second set of the plurality of passive devices are tracked and the one or

more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices are proactively

selected and promoted to becoming the one or more smart devices,

wherein the second set of the plurality of passive devices to track packet

gap information relating to one or more of the packet gaps, the packet gap

information including sizes of the packet gaps or frequencies of the packet

gaps, and wherein the one or more of the second set of the plurality of
passive devices are promoted to being the one or more smart devices or
become one or more active devices based on the track packet gap
information.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein initiating comprises
multicasting to the multiple clients using a multicast Trivial File Transfer Protocol
(TFTP).

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein downloading occurs
during a pre-boot phase of the active device.

5.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the file comprises a boot
image for the active device.

Claims 6-18   (Cancelled)

19.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for initiating, by an active device on behalf of a group of devices, a
downloading session to a group address associated with the group of
devices, wherein the group of devices includes the active device and a
plurality of passive devices, wherein initiating includes downloading a file
to be transmitted as a plurality of packets of data by the active device and
a first set of the plurality of passive devices;

means for checking, by a second set of the plurality of passive devices, for packet
gaps once the download of the file is completed, wherein the packet gap
occurs if the file size is known and a number of packets of the plurality of

packets are lost and a total size of the number of lost packets is less than a

pre-selected amount; and

means for promoting one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive

devices to being one or more smart devices if the packet gap is detected

for the one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices,

wherein the second set of the plurality of passive devices are tracked and

the one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices are

proactively selected and promoted to becoming the one or more smart

devices, wherein the second set of the plurality of passive devices to track

packet gap information relating to one or more of the packet gaps, the

packet gap information including sizes of the packet gaps or frequencies

of the packet gaps, and wherein the one or more of the second set of the

plurality of passive devices are promoted to being the one or more smart

devices or become one or more active devices based on the track packet

gap information.

20.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein initiating comprises

means for multicasting to the multiple clients using a multicast Trivial File

Transfer Protocol (TFTP).

21.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein downloading occurs

during a pre-boot phase of the active device.

22.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the file comprises a

boot image for the active device.

23.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

one or more processors;

a network interface coupled with the one or more processors; and

computer-readable medium coupled with the one or more processors having

stored thereon instructions that, when executed, cause one or more

processors to

initiate, by an active device on behalf of a group of devices, a

downloading session to a group address associated with the group

of devices, wherein the group of devices includes the active device

and a plurality of passive devices, wherein initiating includes

downloading a file to be transmitted as a plurality of packets of

data by the active device and a first set of the plurality of passive

devices;

check, by a second set of the plurality of passive devices, for packet gaps

once the download of the file is completed, wherein the packet gap

occurs if the file size is known and a number of packets of the

plurality of packets are lost and a total size of the number of lost

packets is less than a pre-selected amount; and

promote one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices

to being one or more smart devices if the packet gap is detected for

the one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive

devices, wherein the second set of the plurality of passive devices

are tracked and the one or more of the second set of the plurality of

passive devices are proactively selected and promoted to becoming

the one or more smart devices, wherein the second set of the plurality of passive devices to track packet gap information relating to one or more of the packet gaps, the packet gap information including sizes of the packet gaps or frequencies of the packet gaps, and wherein the one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices are promoted to being the one or more smart devices or become one or more active devices based on the track packet gap information.

24.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the one or more processors are further caused to initiate comprises multicasting to the multiple clients using a multicast Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP).

25.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein downloading occurs during a pre-boot phase of the active device.

26.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the file comprises a boot image for the active device.

27.   (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the TFTP comprises a multicast file transfer protocol to multitask the plurality of packets to the group of devices.

28.   (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the TFTP comprises a multicast file transfer protocol to multitask the plurality of packets to the group of devices.

29.   (New) The system of claim 13, wherein the TFTP comprises a multicast file transfer protocol to multitask the plurality of packets to the group of devices.